

WAR DIARY of the 11th. Bn. THE ROYAL SCOTS.

from 25th. Sept. - 29th. Sept. 1915.

At 7 p.m. the 24th. inst. the Battalion left its billets in VENDIN-LEZ-BETHUNE and took up its position in the assembly trenches near THE FACTORY, without incident.

The hour of Zero was notified as being 5.50 a.m. and it was decided to commence the advance up RAILWAY ALLEY at 5.30 a.m. to get touch with the rear battalion of the 28th. Infantry Bde. This touch was obtained at RAILWAY KEEP and progress from that point was slow. At about 8 a.m. 2 Coys. were in the saps leading to the front trenches and 2 Coys. were still in RAILWAY ALLEY. It was feared that the 12th. Royal Scots would have advanced by this time and as the 11th. Bn. were to move in their support the Commanding Officer decided to abandon the original plan of moving up the saps in rear of 28th. Infantry Brigade and instead to proceed along the Reserve Trench and there down a forward C.T.

At about 9.30 a.m. the Battalion had left our own trenches and advanced on DOUVRIN. The Battalion became divided then, half wheeling towards HAISNES and the other half moving towards DOUVRIN. The portion moving in the direction of HAISNES reached the outskirts of that village, but after some fighting was obliged to withdraw. The portion moving on DOUVRIN was able to occupy a portion of PEKIN trench till dark when it was also obliged to withdraw to FOSSE ALLEY.

FOSSE ALLEY and the C.T. towards the QUARRY redoubt were held until 1 p.m. 26th. inst. A strong bomb attack by the enemy of this Quarry at that hour forced the garrison to withdraw and a similar attack on the left of the Bde. line forced that flank to withdraw. It was thus impossible for the troops in the centre (who were composed of 11th. Royal Scots, 12th. Royal Scots and some 6th. Royal Scots Fusrs.) to withdraw.

At 8.30 a.m. half the battalion had withdrawn to our own trenches and the other half remained in the vicinity of HOHENZOLLERN and our own front trenches. During the remainder of the 26th. inst. the battalion reorganized and that night advanced to occupy QUARRY TRENCH which was done.

During the 27th. inst. in the morning all was quiet on our front although battalions on our left were subjected to some bomb attacks. At about three our trenches were heavily shelled and a strong enemy attack was seen developing from the direction of FOSSE 8. During this day and the 28th. the battalion was called upon to supply bombers to repel the determined attacks of the German bombers to break through the front line not only along SLAG ALLEY but from a sap running out from ^{the} section of trench held by the battalion. Other troops holding the front line being deficient of bombers there was a frequent call on the "Bombers of the Royal Scots" and nearly every man then left in the battalion who had been trained as a bomber was called upon to form bombing parties. These parties successfully repelled every one of the attacks made by the Germans during these two days. These parties often pressed on up the entire length of SLAG ALLEY driving the enemy bombers for nearly half a mile and as far as the steps on FOSSE 8. It was noticed that while the enemy bombers wounded many of our men, most of the enemy were killed outright.

The Battalion was relieved at 1 a.m. Sept. 29th. and withdrew to the GRENADE lines where it commenced reorganizing.

(sd) F. Errington, Capt.
for Capt. Cmdg.
11th. (S) Bn. The Royal Scots.
30/9/15.

MOVEMENTS of 11th. Bn. THE ROYAL SCOTS.

on 26/9/15.

At about 1 a.m. 26/9/15 a counter attack by the enemy on the left of the 7th. Division together with a similar movement against the left of the 27th. Infantry Brigade, caused the troops holding the line between these attacks to fall back.

After the line withdrew from FOSSE ALLEY to our front line, it became a matter of reorganizing, as the battalion was mixed up with other units. This was done in our assembly trenches near the FACTORY which was reached about 5.30 a.m.

At 5 p.m. the battalion left these assembly trenches to hold QUARRY trench in the german front line, picking up rations, S.A.A. and tools etc. in a dump at the QUARRY in our own lines (near Advd. Bde. H.Q.). At 6 p.m. the Quarry dump was shelled and the issue of stores was delayed about one hour. The battn. eventually advanced and reached QUARRY trench which was unoccupied just after midnight 26/27th. inst., linking up with the 2nd. Queens on the right and with a mixed detachment of the Berkshires, Sussex, and Royal Fusiliers who were holding the front line and SLAG ALLEY on the left.

(sd) R.Wemyss Campbell,
Captain,
Comdg. 11th. Royal Scots.

2/10/15.

8-6/8 On the Road to
Carmelias - Section 252-282m
Officers killed One
Wounded Three
Missing Four (dead)
Total Bombs killed 32
Wounded 167
Missing 171 (supposed
dead) 171

20/10/15 -
Hansel
Fad - 11/10/15